



**Intercontinental Terminals Company (ITC) Fire Update**  
**Deer Park, Texas**  
**April 11, 2019 0000 – April 11, 2019 1159**

**Incident Management Objectives:**

**Objective 1:** Ensure the health and safety of the public and response personnel.

**Objective 2:** Establish an incident management structure and processes employing the Incident Command System to enable effective overall management of the event with deployment of resources (staff and equipment) in a rapid, focused and well-coordinated manner.

**Objective 3:** Encourage a collaborative federalism approach, where Federal, State, Tribal, and local governments interact cooperatively and collectively to solve common problems.

**Objective 4:** Take actions to assess the on-site and off-site impacts during the emergency response phase of this incident. Provide this information to state and local authorities to assist them in their decision to protect the local citizens.

**Objective 5:** Conduct activities to prevent off-site releases from the ITC Tank Farm.

**Objective 6:** Respond to, mitigate and recovery off-site releases from the ITC Tank Farm.

**Objective 7:** Maintain open communication with Regional management

**Incident Overview:**

On March 17, 2019, an above ground storage tank containing Naphtha, caught fire at the Intercontinental Terminal Company (ITC), LLC facility in Deer Park Texas. The ITC facility consists of 15 80,000-barrel capacity above ground storage tanks containing petroleum products including Naphtha, Xylene, Toluene, Gasoline Blendstock, and Base Oil. Eleven of the 15 80,000-barrel capacity above ground storage tanks on site were involved in the fire, resulting in the release of contaminants into the atmosphere, as well discharging the contents of the tanks to drainage pathways. Firefighting water and foam potentially containing petroleum products were released from an outfall due to accumulation of water from firefighting efforts. Various firefighting organizations assisted in putting out the fire utilizing a variety of firefighting foams.

A partial breach of the tank farm containment wall on the northeast side near Tank 80-7 occurred at approximately 12:00 pm on March 22, 2019, to the ditched area and into Tucker Bayou. Additional boom was placed along the ditch leading to Tucker Bayou and Buffalo Bayou (Houston Ship Channel). The Responsible Party's contractor has rebuilt the containment wall using clay material.

At approximately 3:40 pm on March 22, 2019, three tanks reignited. The fire spread from the containment area through the breached containment wall into the ditch along Tidal Road. Foam was applied to the tanks and the ditch to extinguish the fire.

As a result of the fire, nine of the fifteen oil tanks had been burned and collapsed. One of the tanks had been burned and damaged, but not completely collapsed. Two tanks had become overheated and smoked but were not significantly damaged. Four of the tanks had smoked but did not burn.

During and after the fire and the breach of the secondary containment, several readings of benzene above 1.0 parts per million (ppm) were detected (highest was 16.5 near National Tank Services) by the various entities conducting air monitoring through the afternoon and night. These readings were located along the ship channel.

A vessel decontamination plan was approved on March 27, 2019. The plan established procedures for decontamination of large and small vessels. Also, the plan describes how the decontamination team will utilize resources that include barge boats equipped with a hot water pressure washer, support boats for assessment team members, containment boom and absorbent sweep, rags, absorbent pads, cleaning agents, personal protective equipment (PPE), boat operators, and technicians.

On March 31, 2019, EPA and the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) posted the Story Map Resource Interactive tool for the ITC incident. The Story Map provides easy access for ITC fire data.

### **Executive Overview:**

- On April 11, 2019, Harris County Judge Lina Hidalgo visited with the EPA, TCEQ, the United States Coast Guard (USCG), Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) and other Harris County Officials, to receive an update on the progress of the response.
- On April 11, 2019, TPWD released ten birds and two turtles after rehabilitation.

### **Land Operations:**

- On April 11, 2019, ITC conducted operations at the tank farm:
  - Continued degassing process for tanks 80-13, 80-14, and 80-15. Sludge removal continues in Tank 80-15.
  - Completed the cleaning of tank 80-6.
  - Continued to drain product from Tanks 80-1, 80-4, and 80-10. Completed draining of tank 80-7. Tank 80-7 prepared for the degassing process.
- On April 11, 2019, at approximately 8:30 pm Texas Molecular evacuated their employees due to benzene exceedances (0.87 ppm to 1.7 ppm). At approximately 9:00 pm National Tank Services evacuated their employees due to benzene exceedances (1.7 ppm to 1.8 ppm).
- At approximately 2:00 am, on April 12, 2019, ITC reported a benzene concentration of 2.3 ppm at the Clean Harbors facility. Further air monitoring at Clean Harbors detected benzene at 2.3 ppm at 3:04 am and 0.75 ppm at 3:30 am. At approximately 6:30 am, on April 12, 2019, air monitoring at Clean Harbors detected benzene concentrations above 2.5 ppm, and a Shelter in Place was implemented for the Clean Harbors facility.
- On April 11, 2019, at approximately 8:27pm ITC reported benzene concentrations ranging between 6.0 ppm to 15 ppm at the impacted Tank Farm. Between 8:30 pm and 9:00 pm, ITC applied foam to the tanks and tank farm area to reduce the benzene concentrations.

- At 9:04 pm, on April 11, 2019, ITC reported a benzene detection of 25 ppm at Tidal Road directly adjacent to the Tank Farm. Foam was again applied to reduce the concentration of benzene.

### **Water Operations:**

- On April 11, 2019, ITC continued flushing and skimming operations in Tucker Bayou.
- On April 11, 2019, ITC continued remediation activities in the drainage ditch adjacent to Tidal Road.
- On April 11, 2019, water operations stopped at approximately 3:00 pm due to weather conditions.
- A Shoreline Cleanup Assessment Technique (SCAT) team will return to Santa Anna Bayou on April 12, 2019, with air boat(s) to perform an assessment of reports of contamination in the marshy areas.
- EPA conducted surface water sampling on April 11, 2019 at 10 sample locations. The surface water samples were collected along Buffalo Bayou and the San Jacinto River and will be analyzed for per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS), volatile organic compounds (VOCs), semi-volatile organic compounds (SVOCs), chemical oxygen demand (COD), and oil & grease. The results from the sampling event were compared to the TCEQ Surface Water Quality Standards (WQS), or to TCEQ Texas Risk Reduction Program surface water protective concentration levels (PCLs), if a WQS was not available for a chemical.
- The USCG Captain of the Port continues the controlled open for the Ship Channel, with traffic during the daytime only. Decontamination vessels are being positioned to help ships that may have residue on the hulls.
- As of Thursday, April 11, 2019:
  - 167,400 feet of boom deployed
  - 131,255 bbl of product/water recovered from water operations
  - 182,431 bbl of product/water recovered from tank farm
  - Approximately 465,000 gallons of foam concentrate have been used for fire-fighting/suppression and emission suppression

<b>Total Vessels as of April 11, 2019</b>				
Work Boats	Barges	Small Capacity Skimming Vessels	Skimmers	Total Vessels
111	107	25	117	<b>360</b>

### **Community Air Monitoring:**

- Several entities including TCEQ, EPA, and ITC continue to conduct air monitoring around the tank farm, in adjoining industrial areas, and communities downwind from the facility.
- EPA conducted handheld air monitoring on April 11, 2019, from 00:00 to 23:59 at 57 locations in the surrounding communities. Results were reported above the detection limit at two locations for total volatile organic compounds (VOCs). EPA will continue to conduct additional air monitoring and deploy the Trace Atmospheric Gas Analyzer (TAGA) to determine if VOCs continue to be detected.
- The Airborne Spectral Photometric Environmental Collection Technology (ASPECT) aircraft did not fly during this reporting period due to low ceiling (cloud cover).
- EPA conducted air sampling using the TAGA on April 11, 2019. The TAGA analyzed the air samples for benzene, toluene and xylene. The TAGA air sampling results were compared to the TCEQ short-term Air Monitoring Comparison Values (AMCVs) and found no exceedances of the short-term AMCVs for toluene and xylene. The TAGA air sampling results found an exceedance of the short-term AMCV for benzene (0.18 ppm)

north of the ITC facility. These results have been shared with unified command and local officials.

#### **Coordination with State Agencies:**

On March 17, 2019, in response to a tank fire at the ITC, federal, state and local agencies joined ITC in a Unified Command. Multiple agencies including the United States Coast Guard, the TCEQ, and Harris County Pollution Control Services supported the response effort.

#### **EPA Resources:**

Personnel	EPA R6 Dallas	ITC Deer Park	Total
EPA Region 6	11	8	19
EPA Non-Region 6	0	5	5
START	1	17	18
Other Contractors	0	8	8
<b>Total</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>50</b>

## Additional Information: Air Monitoring and Water Sampling locations.

